

Center News

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A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Winter 2006

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NETWORK OF CHILD
CARE COORDINATORS**

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Commissioner Winstead Dedicates Kansas City Center

The Corporate Kids Child Development Center, located in the Richard Bolling Federal Building in Kansas City, Missouri, was rededicated on Thursday, February 23, 2006. The center originally opened in 1988 recently underwent an extensive two year renovation substantially improving the center and doubling its size. The program cares for 85 children, infants to kindergarten age in a state of the art facility with natural light and expanded square footage for a quality program. The celebration recognized the contributions of the design and construction teams that resulted in the successful renovation and expansion of the center. The guest of honor was the Commissioner of the GSA Public Buildings Service, David L. Winstead. Commissioner Winstead, joined Brad Scott, Regional Administrator for the Heartland Region, Assistant Regional Administrator Mary Ruwwe and children from the center in the ribbon cutting ceremony. SSA Regional Commissioner, Michael Grochowski presented a check for recycling funds to center director Bonnie Miller and board president Shelley Washington. Representatives from numerous federal agencies were on hand to tour the center and participated in a reception hosted by the Child Care Board.



L to R: Michael Grochowski, SSA Regional Commissioner, David L. Winstead, PBS Commissioner, Mary Ruwwe, PBS, ARA, Heartland Region, and Brad Scott, Regional Administrator Heartland Region

Houston Child Care Center Relocates

The LaBranch Child Care Development Center in Houston, Texas, formerly The Concorde School, celebrated its relocation to the LaBranch Federal Building on February 16, 2006. The successful completion of this long awaited project has resulted in the relocation of the center from a 5,100 square foot parking garage with an indoor playground to more than 11,000 square feet of space and a beautiful new outdoor playground. The new state of the art center features some of the best of ideas found in the GSA Child Care Center Design Guide such as indirect lighting, magnetic display walls and recessed alcoves for "interest areas". GSA Regional Administrator Scott Army participated in the ceremony to dedicate the new space and was joined by Kimberly Ashley, Asset Manager for the Gulf Coast Service Center, Denise Whaley, President of the Houston District Child Care Board of Directors, Daphne Henderson, Child Care Center Director, Jennifer Douglas, Client Service Manager, Knowledge Learning



Health and Safety E-News for Caregivers!

A new electronic newsletter is provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics Child Care and Health Partnership program to offer child care providers information on evidence-based practices that promote the health and safety of children in child care.

The first issue includes information and action steps for you on two topics:

- Reducing the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Connecting Families to Community Resources

Go to the following web site to view the entire newsletter.

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/CaregiverEnews.cfm>

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please sign up at: <http://www.healthychildcare.org/hccpsignup.cfm>

Health and Safety E-News is provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics with support from the federal Child Care Bureau and Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

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Corp., and B.J. Upton, Regional Child Care Coordinator.

Elaine Oliver a representative for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee presented a certificate to the group in recognition of the new center. After the ceremony the group retired to the multi-purpose room for refreshments and tours of the center. The center is NAEYC accredited for up to 84 children. Congratulations to everyone in the Greater Southwest Region Gulf Coast Service Center who worked so hard to make this fabulous new center a reality.

Parents and center staff are encouraged to check the following website regularly:
www.recalls.gov

NAEYC NEWS

NEW SELF-STUDY MATERIALS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

The new Self-Study Kit for Program Quality Improvement through NAEYC Early Childhood Program Accreditation is a boxed set of eleven books, including an introduction to the NAEYC Self-Study process, and nine books on specific NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and related Accreditation Criteria, with tools and information to guide programs in self-study. Programs receive the kit when they enroll in self-study, the first step in the new NAEYC Accreditation process. Enrollment forms and information are online, at www.naeyc.org/accreditation/enrollment.asp.

*****Please Note*****

Several of the revisions in the new Health Standard include specific criteria which may impact the type and frequency of the cleaning in your child care facilities. One of these new requirements is for evidence based specifications in particular areas in the child care facility. This means that there are now explicitly prescribed cleaning specifications for diaper changing areas, children's bathrooms, and classrooms. To access the specific requirements you can view the Cleaning and Sanitation Frequency Table at <http://naeyc.org/accreditation/criteria/sanitation.html>.

Tummy Time

The success of the Back to Sleep campaign, initiated by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 1992, has resulted in some parents' concern over the flattening shape of their infants' heads when placing them to sleep on their backs.

Leading experts now recommend that newborns be placed on their tummies, when awake and supervised, four times a day for 5-10 minutes in order to prevent a misshapen skull. This intermittent prone position strengthens an infant's neck muscles and helps the infant move his/her head. Infants should spend minimal time in car seats (when not a passenger in a vehicle) or other seating that maintains supine positioning. Infants should continue to be put on their backs to sleep to reduce the risk of SIDS.

To view the entire the AAP report on positional skull deformities in infants, please refer to the following link: <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;112/1/199.pdf>

17th Annual GSA Child Care Conference

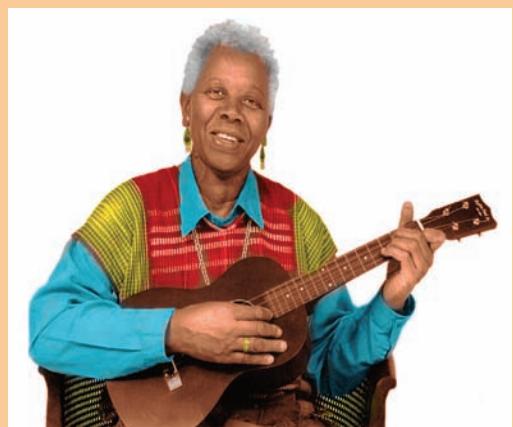
This year's conference, "GSA Child Care:Growing, Sustaining and Achieving Quality" will be held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 South Martin L. King Drive, Chicago Illinois from August 1-3, 2006. The conference will begin at Noon on August 1 and end at 2 PM on August 3.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1.800.233.1234.

Be sure to ask for the GSA Child Care Conference room block when making your reservations. The conference rate is \$127 plus tax, single/double occupancy (each additional adult \$10 per night). Children under 18 are free. The cut off date for hotel reservation is July 10, 2006. The conference rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the conference.

Conference Registration Fees

	Early Bird	After July 10, 2006
Teachers/Caregivers	\$150	\$175
Directors/Assistant Directors	\$210	\$235
All others	\$275	\$300



Ella Jenkins

This year's conference features musician and storyteller Ella Jenkins whose musical legacy spans over 40 years. Ella was the first "folk" performer to teach fun, interactive music in schools and preschools, incorporating world cultures and the basic skills every child needs. Literally thousands of musicians who now perform for children are indebted to Ella Jenkins for laying that groundwork. She has reached even more families through her television appearances on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," "Sesame Street" and "Barney."

The Importance of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs)

Child care is a fact of life for the majority of American families with young children today. Nearly two-thirds of children under the age of six, or 11.6 million children, are routinely cared for by someone other than their working parents— and the number is growing. These families are supported by community-based Child Care Resource and Referral agencies located in every state and most communities nationwide. CCR&Rs support families with child care information and referrals, subsidies to low-income families, parenting information, and linkages to other community resources. They support child care providers with training, licensing support, health consultation, and technical assistance. And they support communities by helping them plan for affordable, quality child care. CCR&Rs are the primary organization in a community that work with and relate to all parts of the child care delivery system— families, child care providers, businesses, and policymakers. Contact your local CCR&R and find out what resources are available for your center. Check out: www.naccrra.org

Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 86% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent accreditation:

*Concord School, Houston TX, managed by Knowledge Learning Corporation

*Suitland Federal Child Development Center, Suitland, MD , managed by Angelic Care



Albany Child Care Center Holiday Donation Project

The Club Fed Child Care Center located in the Leo O'Brien Federal Building in Albany, NY began a new tradition during this holiday season. This year some staff members donated a dollar per paycheck throughout the year, while others donated their personal time to shop for and wrap presents and baskets. The center operator, Victory Child Care Inc., matched the staff contribution and garnered support from the Albany Police Athletic League, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, Albany County Opportunity Inc., and a local church group for this endeavor. In all, the center provided coats, snow pants, and/or boots to half a dozen children; two dinners, lunch and breakfast (in food baskets) to 7 families; outfits, 2 sets of warm underwear, and socks to 8 children; toys to 63 children; and books (with small toys) to 19 children, including siblings of Club Fed children and children enrolled in Club Fed's school age program. All items were wrapped and delivered on Dec 22nd.



Boston Child Care Center Highlighted in Environmental Award

The JFK Federal Building in Boston, Massachusetts received the GSA Regional Administrator's Environmental Award for its environmental stewardship of the facility. Under the leadership of Regional Administrator Dennis R. Smith, Region 1 associates have taken strides to promote and implement conservation, recycling, green purchasing, green construction, green cleaning. In particular the JFK child care center was highlighted in the award for its participation in the following initiatives:

Earth Day Program: Yearly, the Property Manager's office at the JFK Federal Building has worked with the building's child care center to have a planting event that includes the children. Tenants of the JFK Federal Building and surrounding federal facilities are also invited to participate. Besides promoting environmental awareness, the program is looked forward to by the children, childcare staff, and parents.

Recycling: The Regional child care Coordinator purchased approximately \$115,000 of 100% recycled-content equipment and above-80% recycled-content rubberized surfacing for the building's childcare play area.

Congratulations to the JFK team for their great work!

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WWW.GSA.GOV/CHILDCARE

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Contributions and Comments on Center News are welcome and encouraged.